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charge of any land, place, building, structure, stacks, or quantities of wood, hay, corn, wheat, or other grains or materials, or any vessel or water craft, which is infested with rats, shall fail, neglect, or refuse to proceed and continue to endeavor to exterminate and destroy such rats as herein required, it shall be the duty of the State board of health, or its inspectors, and the local health officer, or the local board of health or its inspectors, at once to cause such nuisance to be abated by exterminating and destroying such rats. The expense thereof shall be a charge against the county, town, or city which has by its board or council ordered such destruction or extermination of rats, and such board or council shall allow and pay the same. When such destruction of rats is ordered by the town board or city council, the clerk of such town or city shall at once file with the county auditor a certified statement of the expense of such extermination, and in any such case the county auditor shall charge the amount so expended for destroying rats as aforesaid against the property on which said nuisance shall have been abated, and the same shall be collected as other taxes are now collected, and when so collected shall be paid to said county, town, or city to reimburse it for the amount so paid out for the destruction of rats as aforesaid.

SEC. 5. "*Rat day*"—*Proclamation*.—The governor may annually, in the spring, designate by official proclamation a day to be designated as "rat day" to be observed throughout the State as a day for exterminating and destroying rats about the homes and premises and public buildings and all other places, thus preventing the dissemination of disease and the destruction of property.

SEC. 6. *Rights of officers*.—Any health officer or any inspector appointed under the provisions of this act shall have the right, without a warrant, to enter upon or into any land, place, building, structure, or premises suspected of being rat infested for the discovery or destruction of rats, and any person, or number of persons who shall obstruct him in the performance of his duties shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined in any sum not less than \$2 nor more than \$10.

SEC. 7. *Penalty*.—Any person, firm, copartnership, company, corporation, or school official violating any of the provisions contained in section 1 of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined in any sum not less than \$10 nor more than \$100.

Contagious and Infectious Diseases, Reporting of Cases of—Births and Deaths, Registration of. (Chap. 239, Act Mar. 14, 1913.)

SECTION 1. *State board of health—Record of deaths, births, etc.*—That section 1 of the above-entitled act ¹ be amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. That it shall be the duty of all physicians, midwives, and all other persons who are now permitted or entitled to treat diseases or deformity or practice obstetrics in the State to report upon blank forms supplied by the State board of health all deaths and births which may occur under their supervision, and also all cases of contagious and infectious diseases which may occur under their supervision and which are listed as reportable in the rules of the State board of health. The report of deaths and cases of infectious diseases shall be made immediately, and a certificate of death shall be filed and a burial or removal permit issued prior to any disposition of the body. Reports of deaths, births, and cases of such infectious and contagious diseases as are listed in the rules of the State board of health, which occur in cities and towns, shall be made to health officers of said cities and towns, and when they occur in the country outside of cities and towns they shall be reported to the county health commissioner or his deputies; but reports of deaths occurring outside of cities

¹ An act to collect accurate records of deaths, births, contagious diseases, and marriages; prescribing the duties of the State board of health and of all health officers in relation thereto; providing penalties for the violation of the provisions of this act; and repealing all acts in conflict, approved March 9, 1907.

and towns may be made to the health officer located nearest to the place where the death occurs; and said health officer or commissioner, if the certificate of death be properly made out, shall issue a burial permit, which permit shall be valid in all parts of the State. Upon the reporting of any death occurring outside of cities and incorporated towns to the nearest health officer, other than the county health commissioner of the county wherein said death occurred, said certificate of death shall be sent immediately for record, by said health officer, to the county health commissioner of the county wherein said death occurred.

"When any death, birth, or case of listed infectious or contagious disease may occur with no physician or midwife in attendance, then said death, birth, or case of infectious or contagious disease shall be reported by the householder or other person having said death, birth, or case of infectious or contagious disease in charge to the health officer having jurisdiction, or his deputy; and the officer to whom the report is made shall make inquiry and inspection, and in the case of a death, if he finds no evidence of death by violence or criminal practice, he may fill out the certificate of death and grant a burial permit; but if evidence of death by violence or criminal practice is found, he shall refer the case to the coroner who shall make due investigation according to law. Any death coming under the supervision of any coroner shall be by him reported upon official death certificate blanks to the health officer having jurisdiction within three days after the inquest is held, and such death shall not be reported by any other person. Any death or birth occurring under the supervision of any superintendent or head of any institution shall be immediately reported by him upon official certificates to the proper health officer.

"Stillbirths or seventh months' gestation and over shall be reported as both births and deaths, and all reports of deaths, births, and contagious or infectious disease as herein commanded shall be made upon blanks furnished by the State board of health. It shall be the duty of the clerk of the circuit court of each county to report to the county health commissioner on or before the 4th day of each month the number of marriages for the preceding month, with such facts relating thereto as may be provided for on blanks furnished to such clerk from the State board of health. All persons authorized to perform marriages shall report all marriages performed by them within three days after their occurrence to the clerk of the circuit court of the county wherein the marriage license was issued, and any one failing to so report shall be fined \$5 for each offense. All records of deaths, births, and cases of contagious and infectious diseases shall be kept by health officers in record books, the forms of which shall be supplied by the State board of health. Any physician or midwife refusing or neglecting to make death, birth, and infectious or contagious disease reports as herein provided, or who shall knowingly make a false report thereof, shall, upon conviction, be fined for the first offense in any sum not less than \$10 or more than \$50, and any physician or midwife who is convicted the second time for the violation of any of the above provisions shall be fined not less than \$50 or more than \$100, and any physician or midwife who is convicted the third time for the violation of any of the above provisions shall be fined \$100.

"Householders and others made responsible in this act and failing to report as herein provided, or who shall furnish false information for the purpose of an incorrect certificate or report, shall, upon conviction, be fined not less than \$10 or more than \$50 for each offense. It shall be unlawful for any undertaker, sexton, or other person to bury, cremate, or otherwise dispose of any human body until he has received a permit to do so from a health officer; and no such permit shall be issued by any health officer or deputy until there has been delivered to him a certificate of death written in unfading ink or indelible pencil, and completely and accurately filled out by the proper person. In the event of a burial or other disposal of a dead human body without a permit as herein provided the offending person, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than \$5 or more than \$100, and if the remains are buried the coroner of the county in which the

illegal burial or other disposal occurs shall disinter or otherwise secure the remains, hold an inquest, and within three days thereafter make a return of his findings upon official blanks to the officer having jurisdiction. The cost of said inquest shall be borne by the county, but the same may be recovered in the courts of the county from the person or persons who are responsible for such illegal burial or other disposal of said human body."

SEC. 2. *Vital statistics—Tabulation and use.*—That section 2 of the above entitled act be amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the State board of health to collect and tabulate the vital statistics, to study them and endeavor to make intelligent and profitable use of the same for sanitary purposes and the benefit of the people. They shall have supervision of the system of registration of deaths, births, and infectious and contagious diseases, and they shall make up from time to time such blank forms as they may deem necessary for collection, registration, and report of vital and sanitary statistics throughout the State. They shall, upon request, furnish any applicant a certified copy of the record of any birth or death registered under the provisions of this act, and such copy of the record of a birth or death, when properly certified by the secretary of said board to be a true copy thereof, shall be prima facie evidence in all courts and places of the facts therein stated. They shall have the power to pass rules governing the duties of all health boards and health officers, governing the hygienic disposal, transportation, and disinterment of the dead and for the enforcement of this act, and any violation of said rules shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$50 for each offense. The State board of health shall make an annual report of all vital statistics for each calendar year to the governor, the same to be published with their report of transactions and expenditures for the fiscal year by the commissioners of the public printing and stationery."

SEC. 3. *Inmates of public institutions—Record kept.*—That section 3 of the above entitled act be amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the superintendent or of any person or persons having charge of hospitals, poor asylums, lying-in or other institutions, public or private, to which persons resort for treatment of disease, confinement, or are committed by due process of law, to make and keep on file a record of all personal and statistical particulars relative to the inmates of such institutions, as may be required by the State board of health, and any such superintendent, person, or persons failing to make or keep such record shall be liable to punishment by a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$50 for each offense."

SEC. 4. *Repeal.*—All laws or parts of laws coming in conflict with this act are hereby repealed, except that this act shall not be construed to repeal, affect, or modify any of the provisions of an act entitled "An act to prevent infant blindness caused by the preventable disease known as ophthalmia neonatorum," approved March 4, 1911.

Sewage, Disposal of—Sanitary Districts, Establishment and Maintenance. (Chap. 307, Act Mar. 15, 1913.)

SECTION 1. *Sanitary districts—Petitions—County commissioners—Hearing—Election—Boundary lines.*—That whenever any area of contiguous territory within the limits of any one county shall contain two or more incorporated municipalities and shall be so situated that the maintenance of a common outlet for the drainage, including the sewage thereof, or a joint system for the disposal of the sewage thereof, will conduce to the preservation of the public health, the same may be incorporated as a sanitary district under this act, in the manner following, to wit: Any 500 freehold legal voters, residing within the limits of such proposed sanitary district, may petition the board of county commissioners of the county in which they reside to cause the questions to be submitted to the legal voters of such proposed district, whether they will